



Grasshopper Netball Club

NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year to all of you! 😊

On behalf of your Committee, here is the latest news from Grasshopper Netball Club.
Happy reading!

- 1. Congratulations!** - To Hannah Wale for her success in passing her C Award Umpiring. Hannah helped out with the Youth League prior to passing and has now taken her place within our 'umpiring squad'. Kathy Cox organises this regularly, with such aplomb. However, we do need more of you to come forward, but at the moment within Leicestershire, there are no foreseeable C Award courses – but as soon as there are – your committee will be in touch. It *is* rewarding to give something back.
- 2. Sponsorship** – a) Many thanks must to *Chaperone K9* for sponsoring Grasshopper 1 Regional team to the tune of £500. The most recently purchased dresses have seen their new company logo on there and this money has also provided some superb red kit bags and new match balls for all teams – including our 5 youth teams. Primarily, this sponsorship will help with the regional teams, however.
b) Many thanks must also go to Laura Watson (G1/Regional) for securing further, additional sponsorship for the G1 Regional team, in the guise of some new red tops. These have very kindly been paid for by: **James Mossman Ltd** in Melton Mowbray. The total value of these tops is circa £500.
c) GFORCE – Thank you to our Development Officer, Kate Garner – who applied for a grant for the brand new Grasshopper 2 Regional team and received £750 from them to purchase new equipment and new sweat tops. I am sure many of you have seen players wearing this top and have admired it; if there IS a demand for this top, your committee would look to adopt this top as the Club hoody for our senior players. Youth players are still buying the current red hoody – and the price of these has just gone up to £21.50. Here is the recent publicity write-up that was published by GFORCE, including the official photographs:

Grasshoppers get £750 cash boost!

A sports club in Leicester is celebrating after netting a donation of £750 from a unique campaign.

The Grasshopper Netball Club, which was founded over 40 years ago, has received the money from the GFORCE Grassroots Campaign which aims to provide financial support to help sports teams and clubs from across the Midlands achieve their aspirations.

The club, which has four adult teams playing in the Leicester Netball League (LNL), as well as five youth teams, is also now represented at an elite level in the East Midlands Regional League with teams in both Division 2 and Division 3. The funding has provided the club with some hoodies for one of its elite teams and to cover coaching and equipment costs such as new balls.

Kate Garner from Grasshopper Netball Club, said: “Our Club is very friendly and inclusive welcoming all levels of netballer to develop them as far as possible. As well as improving netball skills, we also aim to support club members to further their education via umpiring, coaching and first aid qualifications.

“Spurred on by England Netball’s success winning Gold at the Commonwealth Games this year, we have recently added a new team to the elite regional league and we were looking for support so the Grassroots Campaign came along at just the right time!

“We were delighted to be successful and have received some red, white and green hoodies for our brand new second elite team of netballers which look great and we were also able to fund some coaching and new equipment. We would like to thank GFORCE for their very generous donation and making it possible for us to have these custom-designed hoodies and essential equipment.”

After two successful years in which GFORCE Sportswear’s Grassroots Campaign made 12 donations at a total of £10,000 to clubs and teams across the Midlands the company has again set aside a £5,000 pot of money for 2018 reinforcing its commitment to grassroots sport.

Simon Ward, sales director at GFORCE Sportswear, said “We are so pleased to have been able to make this donation to the Grasshoppers who are a fantastic community club working hard to give whoever wants to take part, access to playing netball at all levels.

“The GFORCE Grassroots campaign exists to reward the dedication, passion and success of sports teams and clubs from across the Midlands, like the Grasshoppers. We wish the club all the best in the future.”

GFORCE Sportswear, based on London Road in Leicester, is a high performance sports brand offered by Gymplex Ltd - member of a group of companies, also including Leicester-based Uniform specialists Grahame Gardner Ltd.



At the time of writing, the regional teams are currently lying: G1 – 4th in Division 2, behind Northants Storm, Leapoole and Notts Knights. G2 – 4th behind Notts Sirens, Cliftonettes and Sleaford Barge Tornados. IF those positions were maintained by the end of the season, then we would secure regional netball for two teams again next season – which would be ideal.

In LNL, G1 are sitting top of the Premier League, with G2 in 6th/8. G3 are sitting top of the Championship and G4 are 6/7 in Division 1. Currently, in the Youth League, G1 are 3/6 in Division 1 and G2 are 5/6 and in Division 2, G3 are 2nd, G4 and 4/6 and G5 are currently propping everyone up! But they are enjoying it and a massive THANK YOU to all seniors and parents helping me out – it is a MAMMOTH JOB and it's a good job I am now semi-retired!!

3. Raffle - Seniors raised £239 and Youth raised £181. Thanks to everyone for their efforts; it is much appreciated and thank you to Sheila Oliver for co-ordinating this once more.
4. Mid-season Team Reviews – A meeting was not held between the Selection Committee and Team Captains this time, because we have such scant numbers of players overall and we never like to hold a meeting just for meeting's sake – especially during the very busy period in the run up to Christmas. G1 squad numbers were fine and they're coping well at the top of the Premiership; G3 are fine and G4 are fine – apart from the lack of GA, but thanks to Tiegan Harrison for stepping in to help them out. The only real team with squad number issues was G2 and to date, they have been pulling up from G3 as and when required. They do have other players named in their squad, but these players have not really been available pre-Christmas. However, moving forward from January 2019, G2 can now draw upon these players: Megs Palmer, Natalie Willis, Chloe Oliver and Carly Varney. G4 can pull up youth player Poppy Beel as and when they need to.
5. Silly Sox – this night will be on Tuesday 29 January when all 4 teams are down and the money raised this time, will be for the Rainbows charity. LNL have kindly agreed to allow us to do this once more.
6. Youth Teams – you may be unaware, but we have **52 girls signed on** and therefore I am running **5 youth teams on Thursday night**. For each team, we need to have an umpire (qualified *and* unqualified) and a Manager who can sort the rotational positions out on the night! It's an absolutely massive job, but I did not want to turn any girls away, wanting to accommodate as many as possible, so that they can just come and play netball in a good set-up. I am indebted to the following Club members for their help: Steph Hiom, Donna Osborn, Lou Beel, Kathy Cox, Sheila Oliver, Hazel

Butler, Abby Deacon and Hannah Wale – who have regularly worn two hats on Thursday nights. However, in addition to them, there has also been assistance from Linda Burman (ex-GNC member from years ago), Lisa Pittwood (specially affiliated by the Club so that she can volunteer and assist us – thanks to Rosie’s Mum, Emma, for persuading her to get involved with us, Steph Adams (plays for Purpura in Loughborough & our LNL Summer League) and Shell Davis and numerous other parents who have helped me with scoring on the night. You can see that the personnel required on a Thursday night to enable these 52 girls to play is a lot, so I would like everyone to consider giving up one Thursday night when you’re not training – to come and help us – I’m sure you’d really enjoy it: passing on your knowledge and advice to younger players. Get in touch with dates when you can help me out – before I contact you! I need 2 weeks’ worth of cover when Steph is in Gambia – so PLEASE get in touch!

7. First Aid Course – Another first for GNC this season – our very own First Aid course delivered to 9 club members at a cost of £25 – Level 3 (A-level standard work) First Aid at Work 3.5 hour course. Congratulations to 1 x DMU student, Lucy Udo, Laura Watson (G1) and 7 youth players, with a couple of their parents: Rosie Weselby, Madi Kane & Mum Amanda, Yvonne Mitton & Mum Lorelia, Ella Guice and Neeve Solanki. Very proud of them all because First Aid is a life skill that I think is important for us all to know something about, so I’ll be looking to repeat the course next year and maybe more of our Club members can take part next time.
8. Website – this still needs updating via an external consultant, but with the new England Netball changes, maybe not for much longer because as part of their new changes, clubs can opt for the free benefit of using their hub for their websites. Your committee will be discussing this in the near future as more and more information is received.
9. Training – Thanks to Kate Garner and Donna Osborn for their hard work in co-ordinating the training and its themes and to other club members for offering to take some of the sessions: Tracy Glover, Holly Walker and Beth Smith. Please look at when the next Level 1 or 2 UKCC Coaching courses are due, so that you can gain your ‘stripes’ as coaches – we’d love you to!
10. Umpiring – thanks to Kathy Cox for sorting out the second half of the season’s umpiring requirements and thank you to: Donna Osborn, Holly Walker, Hannah Wale, Steph Hiom, Abby Deacon and Kathy Cox for their hard work supporting our 4 teams every week. We do need more umpires, so please come forward and do your C Award course at the next available opportunity – you KNOW who you are who should be doing this. 😊

11. Withers Sports – they will give all GNC members the following discounts:

10% off a spend of up to £50

15% off a spend of up to £100 and

20% off a spend of over £100

12. AGM – just advanced notice that this season, we are aiming to hold this on Wednesday 1st May 2019 – venue to be confirmed. Please try to attend.

Andy Scigliano, Chairperson - on behalf of the Committee -
Grasshopper Netball Club
January 2019